

Mr. Reality are yet another entry into the acoustic rock sweepstakes. Their eponymous debut (SBK/EMI) features the strong earnest vocals of Peter Scherer, the songs and guitar of Gordon Brown and the bass and harmony voice of Rob Tanico. The harmonies are reminiscent of Extreme -- extremely pretty and joyous and the songs reach for meaning. "If I Close My Eyes," subtitled "An Open Letter to the Statue of Liberty" mentions homelessness, drugs, and pollution in one sweeping ecstatic breath, but in the end it's like Ross Perot talking about talking about the issues. Standout is the opening "Anonymous" which has hit potential.

Mr. Reality (opening for) Jeffrey Gaines: Fri., Oct. 9 at 8 p.m. at TLA, 334 South St., \$12.50, 922-1011.

--Peter Brown